

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5918

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SUBJECT: SUHARTO NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

REF: JAKARTA 15276

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SUMMARY: SUHARTO, IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE, PLACED PARTICULAR STRESS ON NECESSITY TO PROTECT NATIONAL STABILITY BY TEMPERING EXERCISE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES WITH "HIGH SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY." SUHARTO ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING GREATER PARTICIPATION BY YOUNGER GENERATION IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IRONICALLY, GOI APPROACH IN FIRST AREA LIKELY TO LIMIT ITS SUCCESS IN SECOND. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1. PRESIDENT SUHARTO, IN NEW YEAR'S EVE TELEVISION SPEECH, HIGHLIGHTED YEAR'S DEVELOPMENT IN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FIELDS AND CALLED FOR GREATER UNITY, PARTICIPA-
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TION, AND CAREFULNESS ON PART OF INDONESIAN PEOPLE TO

ENSURE FURTHER SUCCESS IN 1975. ACCORDING SUHARTO, 1974 STARTED BADLY FOR INDONESIA WITH JANUARY RIOTS AND HIGH INFLATION RATES. BOTH PROBLEMS NOW UNDER CONTROL AND 1975 STARTS WITH FEELING OF SOME RELIEF, BUT IN FUTURE SUCH DEVELOPMENTS "WHICH HARM COMMON PEOPLE MOST OF ALL" MUST BE PREVENTED FROM HAPPENING RATHER THAN MERELY DEALT WITH AFTER THE FACT. FOLLOWING WERE OTHER MAIN POINTS OF SPEECH, ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS:

2. ECONOMIC: DESPITE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, GOI'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HAVE RESULTED IN IMPROVED ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POSITION. THIS ENABLES GOI TO ACCEPT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION ON HARDER TERMS THAN PREVIOUSLY, INCLUDING LOANS FROM U.S. EXIM BANK AND RECENTLY SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION. ECONOMIC SUCCESS, HOWEVER, BASICALLY DEPENDENT ON INDONESIANS' OWN DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK.

3. FOREIGN POLICY: AGREEMENT WITH USSR AND OTHER AGREEMENTS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES "WHICH WILL FOLLOW" ALSO SIGNIFICANT STEP IN REALIZING GOI'S INDEPENDENT AND ACTIVE (I.E. NONALIGNED) FOREIGN POLICY.

4. INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS: NATIONAL STABILITY WILL NEVER BE SACRIFICED "FOR THE INTERESTS OF A FEW PEOPLE SEEKING POLITICAL OBJECTIVES UNDER THE GUISE OF HUMAN RIGHTS." THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT "THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY" OR THAT "FREEDOM AND CREATIVITY WILL DIE," BUT MEANS THAT ALL FREEDOMS MUST BE EXERCISED WITH HIGH SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. SAME GOES FOR FREEDOM OF PRESS, FREEDOM OF CRITICISM AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM. PROPER CHANNEL FOR PUBLIC OPINIONS AND ASPIRATIONS IS PARLIAMENT (DDPR). "POP" MAGAZINE ARTICLE (CLAIMING SUHARTO HAD ROYAL ANCESTRY) AFFECTED GOOD NAME OF HIGHEST LEADER AND IS EXAMPLE OF ACTION WHICH CAN HARM NATION AND MUST BE DEALT WITH FIRMLY AS LESSON TO ALL.

5. GOI IS CULTIVATING FUNCTIONAL GROUPS SUCH AS WORKERS, WOMEN, BUSINESSMEN AND YOUTH. YOUTH PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT OFFICIAL USE

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ANT, MUST BE INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT AND BROUGHT TO TAKE GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS FIELD. NEW NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE (KNPI) SHOULD COOPERATE WITH GOVERNMENT IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE. END UNCLASSIFIED

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6. COMMENT: UNCOMPROMISING DEFENSE OF GOI POLICY ON CIVIL LIBERTIES IS REFLECTION OF DEEP SUHARTO DETERMINA-

TION NOT TO PERMIT POLITICAL INSTABILITY TO ENDANGER
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRSMS. EMPHASIS ON IMPORTANCE
OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION REFLECTS HEIGHTENED ATTENTION
SUHARTO HAS BEEN DEVOTING RECENTLY TO ROLE OF YOUNGER
GENERATION THROUGH APPEARANCES AT UNIVERSITIES IN YOGYA
(REFTEL), SMARANG AND BANDUNG.
IRONY OF SPEECH -- AND OF YOUTH CAMPAIGN GENERALL -- IS THAT
GOI RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL LIBERTIES AND UNRESPONSIVENESS OF
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CHANNELS OF OPINION SUCH AS DPR OR KNPI
ARE IMPORTANT CAUSES OF ALIENATION OF YOUTH FROM GOVERNMENT,
AND THAT ABSENT CHANGES IN THESE POLICIES OTHER ATTENTIONS
TO YOUTH ARE NOT LIKELY TO ALTER BASIC SITUATION.
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